

## John Alexander Clark

September 22, 2020

John Alexander Clark, 60

Radiologist, husband, father, outdoorsman, handyman, oenophile

Born in Montreal to David Blackwood Clark & Barbara Jean Clark (ne Griffith).

Died of brain cancer in Toronto on September 22, 2020.

In addition to being extraordinarily intelligent and accomplished, John was an uncommonly kind and compassionate person. John commenced his education at McGill, where he earned a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Physics and a Minor in Computer Science, and later attained a Master's in Medical Physics. He pursued a medical degree at McGill, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Dr. Harold Griffith, who is widely considered a pioneer in the field of Anesthesia. John completed his medical degree at the University of Toronto and pursued a residency in Radiology.

In 1978 he met his wife Marsha, who lived across the hall from his high school girlfriend in the dorm at McGill. Although complete opposites, over time they found they complimented each other perfectly and married in 1986. Their children Oliver and Rachel were born in 1994 and 1996. An affectionate and engaged father, John was unconditionally supportive of his children. He cherished family dinners and was always eager to help with anything from 5th grade math homework to moving into a first apartment after graduating from University.

John was also an integral part of his Radiology partnership at Ellesmere X-Ray. He used his computer science skills creating numerous programs to

improve efficiency and ensure quality control. John believed healthcare delivered in a community setting should be every bit as good as that of Toronto's finest research hospitals. He spent his last 18 years with his Radiologist partners at Ellesmere X-Ray serving three hospitals and several clinics in Scarborough, and more recently, Huntsville and Bracebridge Hospitals. Prior to his sudden retirement, John was the acting Chief of Radiology and Medical Imaging at Scarborough Health Network.

John loved the outdoors and any vacation, with Marsha or the entire family, would always include some combination of hiking, biking, canoeing, and/or skiing. He used his handyman skills, learned from his father during summers at Lac Des Iles, to repair, rewire, or rebuild whatever was needed, whether it was at home or at the cottage. As an avid outdoorsman, John organized annual canoe trips with family and friends, favoring the fall. Canoe tripping with him was a pleasure - he planned out the route, gear & menu in detail. Dinner always seemed to include a pre-dinner drink that required an unanticipated step, such as attaching a rope to a tiny can of ginger ale and throwing it to the bottom of the lake to cool. Even portaging canoe trips with minimal gear included at least one bottle of red wine, steak the first night, and dessert every night.

An active interest in wine led to "gourmet club" partnered with two foodie friends. For over 15 years, John and his buddies came together periodically to prepare elaborate, multi-course meals served to a trio of appreciative wives, each course paired with a different, thoughtfully chosen wine.

John was an avid skier. He first started out with skiing on weekends in the Laurentians as a teenager and his interest grew into multi-annual trips with family and his favorite skiing friends. He was due to leave for this year's first ski trip in January 2020 when his sudden difficulty with speaking led to the diagnosis of brain cancer. With sadness and shock, he retired immediately. Subsequent loss of speech and cognitive skills caused considerable frustration, but he handled it with courage, fortitude, and acceptance. Not to say he was a typical patient – he self-adjusted his medication and reviewed

his MRI images with intent and interest until the end.

He is survived by his wife Marsha Jane Copp, adult children Oliver Copp Clark and Rachel Copp Clark, mother Barbara Jean Clark (ne Griffith), brother James Randall Clark and Jim's partner Diane Bowman. He also leaves his beloved aunt, cousins and cousins by marriage in Canada, the US, England and Hong Kong.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting Scarborough Health Network's important work in community healthcare (<https://shnfoundation.ca>) or urgently needed brain-related research through Brain Canada (<https://braincanada.ca>) or The Brain Campaign at Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation (<https://tgwhf.ca/campaigns/brain>).

A memorial service will be held at Rosedale United Church Sept 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm with a set number of attendees - please email [churchoffice@rosedaleunited.org](mailto:churchoffice@rosedaleunited.org). Advance signup and masks are both mandatory. The service will also be live-streamed.

The family will be holding visiting hours at home with advance sign up. See <https://doodle.com/poll/p7fdv4ba8gh79mu8> for days & times. Visits will be held outdoors if possible, or indoors with masks if necessary.

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ *Dr.Clark certainly was a remarkable man, I had the privilege to work with him for many years, He was in a league of his own, his quick wit, his laugh ( a full belly laugh) he'd lean so far back in his chair... always had an open door,, May his memory be a blessing. my deepest and sincerest condolences go to his family,*

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**Deanie Lavery** - October 01, 2020 at 04:26 PM

DL

“ *Deanie Lavery lit a candle in memory of John Alexander Clark*



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**Deanie Lavery** - October 01, 2020 at 04:17 PM

CM

“ *Although I didn't know Dr. Clark very well, he was always pleasant during our interactions and he was very responsive and helpful. My deepest condolences to his family and close friends. He will be missed.*



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**Chantelle Morris** - September 28, 2020 at 03:40 PM

EH

“ I only knew him very briefly but his kindness and humbleness touched me. There were times when I forgot I was talking to a doctor. I consider it a great privilege to have known such a special man even though it was a short time. My deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife and family. My heart is heavy and extremely saddened for your loss. Rest in Peace, Dr. Clark.

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**Eloisa Holt** - September 28, 2020 at 01:23 PM

DS

“ DI CLERICAL STAFF,  
GRACE/BIRCHMOUNT SITE lit a candle in  
memory of John Alexander Clark



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**DI CLERICAL STAFF, GRACE/BIRCHMOUNT SITE** - September 28, 2020 at 12:41 PM

RO

“ I am still reeling from the news of Dr. Clark's passing. His sense of humour and his laughter joined with his passion for his work is what I will remember the most. He was a remarkable man who will be very missed. Condolences to his family.

*Rose*  
*Birchmount Campus-Ultrasound*

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**Rose** - September 28, 2020 at 07:28 AM

SA

“ *Dr.Clark was an amazing member of our work family at Birchmount (Grace hospital) for 18 years. First words that come to mind on seeing him was debonair , royalty, dashing. His beautiful blue eyes so kind, always smiling. His laughter , and how he would put his head back and laugh. Many memories of his which brings us joy will always be cherished in our hearts.He was so caring, always approachable and kind hearted.  
And his sense of humor made our depressing day go by fast.*

*Its a big loss for all of us. Our prayers are with his family.  
Rest in peace dear Dr.Clark. We love you and will always cherish our time spent with you.*

*Sangeeta (Birchmount/General Site)*

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**sangeeta** - September 25, 2020 at 03:46 PM

AS

“ *AR Dept - SHN lit a candle in memory of John Alexander Clark*



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**AR Dept - SHN** - September 25, 2020 at 12:47 PM



Luciano  
Nocente

“ *It is with sadness that I learned of John's passing away. I studied at McGill and shared living quarters at the Deke House on University street. John was always a calm and friendly person. I wish all his family my deepest condolences. Luciano Nocente, Montreal.*

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**Luciano Nocente** - September 25, 2020 at 11:42 AM

RC

“ *John was a great skier, a graceful man, and he has many friends who miss him.*



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**Roger Copp** - September 25, 2020 at 10:47 AM

MM

“ *Dear Marsha, Oliver and Rachel,  
We are deeply saddened to hear the news of John's passing. We all have fond memories of conversations with John when he would bring Oliver for piano lessons. I am very glad to know that Oliver's artistry at the keys was of comfort at a most difficult time.  
Please accept our sincere condolences and know that you are all very much in our thoughts and prayers.  
Sincerely,  
Marianne Marusic, Alice McMurtry and Laura McClintock*

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**Marianne Marusic** - September 25, 2020 at 10:17 AM

MM

“ *John was a brilliant physician, an incredibly savvy technical genius, and a true gentleman. He was a wonderful mentor to those of us who benefited from his teaching and insight as young residents. He will be missed by all of us. My sincerest condolences to his family and friends.*

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**Mitesh Mehta** - September 25, 2020 at 09:08 AM

AN

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**andy** - September 24, 2020 at 11:53 PM

LF

“ *The only thing worse than the sorrow I have over losing one of my best friends John is the grief that I have felt watching my best friend Marsha dealing bravely with his slow demise over the last year. For I too have known both of you since 1978. John, my skiing and scotch-drinking buddy, I will always miss you. Marsha, my old roommate and confidante, I will always be there for you.*

*Louis Forest*

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**Louis Forest** - September 24, 2020 at 06:31 PM

RP

“ *My condolences to the family. I first met John at the Wellesley when I joined the interventional team as a nurse. I didn't realize I would be joining a close knit family. We started an annual cookie exchange and one of the highlights was when John participated and brought his amazing butter tarts. He was a an excellent radiologist and a great baker, just to mention a couple of his talents. He was a wonderful human being who left us way too soon.*

*Rose*

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**Rose Pantalone** - September 24, 2020 at 02:45 PM

VW

“ My most sincere condolences to the family of our beloved John Clark. I have known John (JC as I affectionately called him) for almost 30 yrs. Having worked with him in Oakville and Ajax. His wit and humour and bantering back and forth are what will be missed the most. He truly impacted my day for the good and I will miss him greatly. Sleep in peace dear John . You will always be my fave Radiologist.

Victoria Wedge MRT(R)

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Victoria Wedge - September 24, 2020 at 01:03 PM



“ John was a resident with me at U of T and then was a fellow radiologist at Sunnybrook. What a loss when he left Sunnybrook. Now to lose him completely is a tragedy. Amazing radiologist. Even better person. So sad. You will be missed. My heart goes out to his family.

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Monique Christakis - September 24, 2020 at 12:52 PM

CM

“ John was a kind and brilliant physician. He was a mentor and friend to all residents and fellows who trained under his supervision at U of T. He will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure to work with him.

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Christopher Guest MD - September 24, 2020 at 09:30 AM

KA

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Karin - September 24, 2020 at 09:28 AM

LS

“ Locating Staff lit a candle in memory of John Alexander Clark



Locating Staff - September 24, 2020 at 06:46 AM

DB

“ I send you all my heartfelt condolences at John’s passing. Years ago at the lake, in our early teens, John and I tended to hang out together, riding the green wooden boat all over, exploring, shooting fire crackers, playing board games and having water fights with Jim and Don, who were both doing the same as John and I were, but usually somewhere else on the lake. From what I’ve heard over the years, he lived quite a learned and full life - something to be very proud of, however short it was, but one might say “his work was done”, like all of us will one day. He’s now in good company with Dave and the Grandparents now. My regret now is we didn’t re-connect earlier.

Doug Baker - September 23, 2020 at 10:37 PM

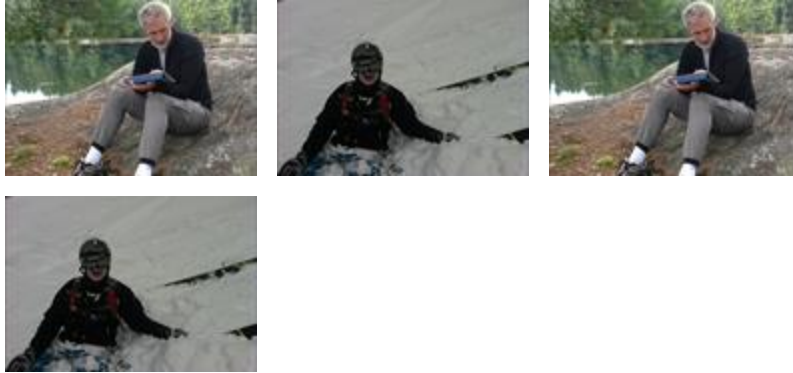
AF

“ John was a real gentleman. What a loss.

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**Allan Fox** - September 23, 2020 at 09:54 PM

AN

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



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**andy** - September 23, 2020 at 09:32 PM

AN

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Andy** - September 23, 2020 at 09:30 PM

SL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Clark's passing. He taught me so much during residency. He was so keen and astute, skilled with procedures, and always ready to teach/help others. We really appreciated Dr. Clark's wisdom and guidance.



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**Selina Lem** - September 23, 2020 at 08:16 PM

JM

“ Devastated to hear the news about our friend and colleague. John was an absolute gentleman and a terrific department chief. He was a brilliant radiologist, always approachable and helpful with his Emerg department colleagues. He will be sorely missed by all whom had the pleasure of working alongside him in Scarborough. Sincere condolences to his family as they cope with this tragedy. John was truly one of the great guys!!  
Joe Butchey (SHN Emergency Dept.)

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**Joe Butchey MD** - September 23, 2020 at 04:01 PM

GC

“ Hockey Night in Montréal – my most cherished Habs games were those with John at the (old) Forum the winter of 1987–88. John had figured out the best route for standing-room-only tickets just behind the first section of seats, putting us almost at ice level. One of us had to guard our spot when the other was off to buy a couple of beers or for a visit to see a man about a horse... John organised tickets for use to attend at least one Leafs game in recent years, but the atmosphere was not the same as those heady days at the old Forum. You couldn't ask for a better brother-in-law. I miss him already. Rest in peace in hockey heaven John. Gordon

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**Gordon H. Copp** - September 23, 2020 at 02:53 PM

GC

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Gordon H. Copp** - September 23, 2020 at 02:43 PM